

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A surgical drill guide assembly comprising:

an outer stem having a longitudinal axis;

at least one drill guiding barrel attached to the outer stem and configured to receive and guide a surgical drill bit, wherein the at least one drill guiding barrel is movably attached to the outer stem at a substantially fixed angle with respect to the outer stem;

~~a tab to engage an opening in a bone plate to align and stabilize the drill guide assembly;~~

a rod releasably attached to both the outer stem and ~~the~~ a bone plate; and

a release mechanism for attaching the outer stem and rod.

7. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, further comprising a handle member offset from the stem by an offset handle arm.

8. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 7, wherein the handle member pivots in relation to the offset handle arm.

9. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the release mechanism has a non-circular passage.

10. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the rod has a non-circular cross-section at one end.

11. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the rod is threaded at one end.

12. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, further comprising one or more ball detents located in the stem and a groove located on the rod, wherein the one or more ball detents and groove are used to releasably attach the stem to the rod.

13 (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the drill guide barrel pivots about a hinge on the stem.

14. (cancelled)

15. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the drill guide barrel has a plurality of drill insertion locations.

16. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the drill guide barrel has multiple insertion passageways at different angular orientations.

17. (original) The surgical guide assembly of claim 16, wherein the insertion passageways have angular orientations of about 0° to about 10° toward the longitudinal axis of a bone plate and about 75° to about 90° upward or downward to the longitudinal axis of a bone plate.

18. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the drill guide barrel has a depth stop for preventing a drill bit from exceeding a pre-determined depth.

19. (cancelled)

20. (original) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 8, further comprising a button cam, wherein the handle member and offset handle arm are releasably locked in angular position by detents on a button cam being moved into or out of engagement with detent grooves in the handle member.

21-24. (cancelled)

25. (new) A surgical drill guide assembly comprising:

an outer stem having a first longitudinal axis;

a drill guiding barrel configured to receive and guide a surgical drill bit, the drill guiding barrel being pivotable about an axis of rotation substantially parallel to the first longitudinal axis and; and

a rod releasably attached to the outer stem.

26. (new) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 25, wherein the drill guiding barrel has a depth stop for preventing a drill bit from exceeding a pre-determined depth.

27. (new) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 25, wherein the drill guiding barrel is attached to the outer stem by a hinge.

28. (new) A surgical drill guide assembly comprising:

an outer stem having a first longitudinal axis;

a drill guiding barrel pivotably attached to the outer stem such that the drill guiding barrel can pivot while maintaining a substantially fixed angle with respect to the outer stem, and wherein the drill guiding barrel is configured to receive and guide a surgical drill bit; and

a rod releasably attached to the outer stem.

29. (new) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 28, wherein the drill guiding barrel has a depth stop for preventing a drill bit from exceeding a pre-determined depth.

30. (new) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 28, wherein the drill guiding barrel is attached to the outer stem by a hinge.